

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 120286

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-05 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 /040 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TD:ALFREEMAN:PB

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IO/TRC - MR. HOYT

----- 038135

R 151639Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, IMCO

SUBJECT: INMARSAT

REF: THE HAGUE 2621

1. US HAS ALREADY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A MEETING OF KEY DELEGATIONS PRIOR TO THIRD SESSION INMARSAT CONFERENCE. PROPOSAL WAS PUT TO US BY BILLINGTON, PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE, WHO HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY USSR TO SET UP USSR-UK-US CONSULTATIONS. IN REPLYING WE SAID THAT WE FELT STRONGLY THAT SONDAAL, AS WESTERN EUROPEAN SPOKESMAN (ACCOMPANIED BY SUCH REPRESENTATIVES AS HE WISHED) SHOULD BE INVITED, AND JAPAN AS WELL. BILLINGTON HAD NO OBJECTION TO OUR SUGGESTED PARTICIPANTS AND, ASSUMING USSR INTERPOSES NO OBJECTION, PLANS TO ARRANGE CONSULTATIONS IN LONDON MIDWEEK OF JUNE 28. ALTHOUGH BILLINGTON WILL

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PAGE 02 STATE 120286

PROBABLY HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SONDAAL, THEREBY

MOOTING SONDAAL PROPOSAL PARA 5 REFTEL, EMBASSY MAY TELL SONDAAL WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE WITH A MEETING AND CONCUR IN HIS THOUGHTS REGARDING PARTICIPANTS.

2. WE ARE IN PROCESS OF FORMULATING OUR VIEWS ON MATTERS RAISED REFTEL PARAS 2 - 4 AND CAN OFFER ONLY THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY VIEWS:

A. RE PARA 2: THE US BELIEVES THAT THE IMPOSITION OF ANY VOTING CEILING IS FUNDAMENTALLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE UNDERLYING MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY OF THE INMARSAT ARRANGEMENTS, NAMELY, THAT EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION IS MOST LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED IF EACH COUNCILMEMBER PARTICIPATES IN DECISION-MAKING ON THE BASIS OF A VOTE WEIGHTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS PROPORTIONATE INVESTMENT. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD STILL PREFER THAT THERE BE NO LIMITATION ON THE VOTING PARTICIPATION OF A COUNCIL MEMBER. AT SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE WE STATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT A VOTING CEILING OF 30 IF IT WERE COUPLED WITH A REQUIREMENT TO REDISTRIBUTE, AT THE OPTION OF THE AFFECTED MEMBER, ANY INVESTMENT HELD BY THE

MEMBER IN EXCESS OF THE CEILING. WE ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL AGAIN OR SOME VARIATION OF IT, BUT WE WOULD NOT REGARD A 20 CEILING AS ACCEPTABLE. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE V OF OPERATING AGREEMENT IS NOT NECESSARY IF LIMIT IS AGREED UPON.

B. RE PARA 3: THE US IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES TEXT (ARTICLE 26) APPROVED BY THE SECOND SESSION WITH RESPECT TO CUSTOMS EXEMPTIONS, AND WE HAVE NOT RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING TO REOPEN THIS QUESTION AT THE THIRD SESSION. WHILE US IS OPPOSED GENERALLY TO RESERVATIONS, WE CAN NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PERMITTING RESERVATIONS TO ARTICLE 26 ONLY.

C. RE PARA 4: WE WOULD SUPPORT ANY PROPOSAL WHICH TENDS TO MINIMIZE THE COSTS TO THE ORGANIZATION, AND BELIEVE SONDAAL'S SUGGESTION IS A GOOD ONE. WE WONDER, HOWEVER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 120286

WHETHER SPAIN AND RUSSIA AND COULDN'T MUSTER SUFFICIENT VOTING STRENGTH TO DEFEAT IT.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD FIND VERY HELPFUL ANY COMMENTS SONDAAL OFFERED UPON RECEIPT OF THESE VIEWS AND ANY COMMENTS HE COULD MAKE ON EUROPEAN VIEWS UPON CONCLUSION OF MAY 20 MEETING. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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